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MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATING AND PLANNING STAFF

SUBJECT: Transfer of State, War and Navy Coordinating Committee, Subcommittee for Security Control (Security Advisory Board) to C.I.G.

1. By memorandum SM-4140, dated 20 November 1945, the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

a. Informed the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee that the Security Advisory Board of the Office of War Information had been abolished as of 31 August 1945, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 9608 (31 August 1945).

b. Proposed that the remaining functions of the Security Advisory Board of OWI be assumed by the State Department.

2. In SWNCC 252, dated 21 January 1946, the acting State member of SWNCC recommended that, as there was some question as to State's legal authority to assume these functions, SWNCC appoint a subcommittee to be known as the Security Advisory Board, to be composed of State, War and Navy members with a permanent Secretariat to carry out the residual functions of the liquidated Security Advisory Board of OWI.

3. The Army member of SWNCC 252/1, dated 30 January 1946, approved, as an interim measure, the recommendation of the Acting State member contained in SWNCC 252. However, he further recommended that the Board, when created, submit reports and recommendations to SWNCC regarding:

a. The necessity for a charter for the Board or other action to make the Board effective, and

b. The desirability of placing the Board under the National Intelligence Authority at a future date.

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4. a. SWNCC subsequently appointed an ad hoc committee to report on SWNCC 252.

b. The ad hoc committee report (Enclosure to SWNCC 252/2, dated 5 February 1946) concluded that:

(1) The problem presented in SWNCC 252 involved "a matter of common interest" to the State, War and Navy Departments who are the largest producers of classified information.

(2) There is no need for an additional agency to carry out the old OWI Security Advisory Board functions nor is there an existing departmental agency which could advantageously assume these functions.

(3) The assigned functions would not entail conflict with existing departmental or agency authority and responsibility.

c. The ad hoc committee strongly recommended that the Security Advisory Board be re-established as a subcommittee of SWNCC as soon as possible.

5. By informal action of 3 April 1946, SWNCC approved the ad hoc committee report (Enclosure to SWNCC 252/2).

6. A letter from Mr. E. T. Anderson (State Department), Acting Chairman, Security Advisory Board, dated April 18, 1946, encloses a memorandum from SWNCC, dated 5 April 1946, which establishes the SWNCC Subcommittee for Security Control, to be known as the Security Advisory Board, and outlines its assigned functions. These function, as recommended in SWNCC 252 and approved in SWNCC 252/2, are:

a. Declassification of documents originating in non-military departments and agencies.

b. Top Secret control procedures for non-military federal departments and agencies.

c. Security clearance of civilian officials to receive certain classified material from the War and the Navy Departments and Joint Chiefs of Staff committees.

d. Conversion of security regulations for civilian agencies from a war-time to a peace-time basis.

e. Clearance of statistical information under Executive Order 9103* and performance of ~~function~~^{functions} previously transferred to the Security Advisers Board by the Bureau of the Budget.

f. Survey of security measures affecting administrative efficiency.

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7. By letter of 13 May, Colonel [REDACTED] C.I.G., was designated the Director's liaison officer with the Security Advisory Board with Colonel [REDACTED] as alternate. The former is charged with making specific recommendations to the Director, when appropriate, as to the desirability of initiating action which will place the Board under the National Intelligence Authority.

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* Executive Order 9103 was revoked by Executive Order 9622 of Sept. 30, 1945.

A mimeographed letter of the same date from Stuart A. Rice, Assistant Director in charge of Statistical Standards, Bureau of the Budget, to all Federal statistical agencies provided for continuance of the functions (which are purely advisory) by reference to the Security Advisory Board of questions previously referred to the Division of Statistical Standards, Bureau of the Budget.

8. In a letter dated April 29, 1946, Mr. Paul H. Appelby, Assistant Director of the Budget, informed Mr. E. T. Anderson, Acting Chairman, Security Advisory Board, Department of State, that he was "inclined to agree that there are still some security matters affecting the several agencies of the government which require attention." The statement continues: "We would question, however, whether or not the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee, whose functions relate principally to the three agencies represented in its membership, should undertake an activity involving security matters of other agencies of the government. It would seem more appropriate that this security activity be undertaken by the National Intelligence Authority, which has been established by a directive of the President and which would have adequate authority for this security activity."

9. Mr. Anderson in a letter of June 14, 1946 to Mr. Appelby, makes the following statement:

"With reference to your opinion that the NIA possesses adequate authority to take over this security activity, it should be kept in mind that the Security Advisory Board's functions embrace the entire field of classified information in civilian agencies and are not necessarily restricted to foreign intelligence. Nevertheless, it would seem the question you raise is one that can be resolved at any time between NIA and SWNCC if the former organization agrees with your views. As a matter of fact I am sure that SWNCC would have no objection to transferring this function to another agency if it could be shown that the Security Advisory Board more properly